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BOOK REVIEWS.

The Encyclopedic Digest of Virginia and West Virginia Reports.
Volume II. The Michie Company, Law Publishers, Charlottesville, Va. 1906.

It is said of a late distinguished member of the Albemarle (Va.) Bar that when the Code of 1849 was published he was heard to use very vigorous language against the evil that the revisers had done him personally in that very admirable codification of the laws. He stated with much emphasis that for nearly thirty years he had devoted himself to a careful study and annotation of the Acts of the Legislature, as they came out and that his notes and commonplace book gave him a rare advantage over all of his fellow practitioners. "And now," said he, "these confounded fellows have put every lawyer, from the youngest to the oldest, on an equal footing with me and all my labor is practically lost."

An examination of the first two volumes of the *Encyclopedic Digest* of the Virginia and West Virginia Reports, made by the Michie Company of Charlottesville, under the editorial supervision of Thomas Johnson Michie, has convinced the writer that the editor and his able corps of assistants have done, and are doing a work which deserves the encomium which unwittingly the distinguished lawyer gave the revisers of 1849. Both in arrangement of subject and cross references; in carefulness of detail and completeness of quotation, this work—if finished as commenced—will enable any practitioner to find with certainty and celerity the case law of the two Virginias. One advantage it possesses over any possible competitor, is that each article is treated separately by a trained legal writer who has given that particular subject careful thought and study and the work therefore is not only a digest, but partakes somewhat of the nature of a text book. One hundred and three volumes of the reports of the Mother State and of the daughter are to be carefully digested. The method adopted for ready reference is one evidently founded upon experience gained by years of such work and commends itself at a glance even to a casual observer. The two volumes issued cover the decisions from "A" to "Commissions," and the work will be completed in 10 volumes. With the complete work at hand the youngest, as well as the oldest, lawyer will have little difficulty in finding all the law as decided by the courts of last resort in the two States named. Coming from the well-known publishing house it is needless to say that the mechanical execution of the work is all that can be asked.

R. T. W. D.